

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 OIC-02 ACDA-05 AGR-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAL-01 /115 W
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R 162030Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8935

INFO USUN NEW YORK 306

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, TD

SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE SESSION

REF: A) STATE 054588; B) 75 PORT OF SPAIN 0462

1. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S LAW OF THE SEA EXPERT AND PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR (DR. LENNOX BALLAH) DEPARTED FOR NEW YORK CONFERENCE ONE DAY PRIOR TO EMBASSY'S RECEIPT OF REF A. IN VIEW OF BALLAH'S ABSENCE AND OUR FULL DIALOGUES WITH HIM ON ALL LOS ISSUES HERETOFORE, SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATIONS TO GOTT AT THIS TIME DO NOT APPEAR USEFUL, BUT AMBASSADOR HAS REEMPHASIZED TO FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH, WHO WILL HEAD THE TRINIDAD DELEGATION, THE IMPORTANCE THAT ALL STATES MEANINGFULLY NEGOTIATE AT THE NEW YORK SESSION SO THAT A TREATY MAY BE CONCLUDED THIS YEAR.

2. GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (GOTT) FULLY
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SHARES USG PERCEPTION THAT RESULTS MUST BE OBTAINED

AT CURRENT SESSION OR CHAOTIC SITUATION WILL ENSUE.
PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN
TO EMBASSY THAT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AT THIS TIME
TO EXTEND FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES MAY SPARK
FREE-FOR-ALL OF NATIONAL CLAIMS AND THAT IN FACT U.S.
SENATE ACTION LAST YEAR PROBABLY PRECIPITATED MEXICAN
UNILATERAL CLAIMS. GOTT IS WELL AWARE THAT NEW YORK LOS
SESSION IS THE LAST CHANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT
TO FORESTALL PROLIFERATION OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS AND
CHAOTIC COMPETITION.

3. AMONG SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, GOTT IS KNOWN TO BE IN
OPPOSITION TO USG VIEWS ONLY ON THE QUESTION OF SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH. THERE ARE CONFLICTING VIEWPOINTS WITHIN
TRINIDAD ON THIS ISSUE AND WE WILL ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE
THINKING TOWARD A MORE RATIONAL AND LESS RESTRICTIVE
POLICY.

4. A PRINCIPAL GOTT PREOCCUPATION IN ALL LOS DISCUSSIONS
FROM NOW ON WILL BE HOW TO ACHIEVE SOME FORM OF COOPERA-
TIVE POOLING OF ACCESS TO THE DEFINED ECONOMIC ZONES IN
THE CARIBBEAN ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARAGRAPH 6.D.
OF REF A. THUS FAR, HOWEVER, TRINIDAD HAS BEEN
UNSUCCESSFUL IN CONVENING A BROADLY-BASED DISCUSSION
OF THE ISSUE AMONG AFFECTED CARIBBEAN STATES AND
TERRITORIES, DESPITE THE SEVERE ZONAL INEQUITIES
WHICH WOULD RESULT IN THE REGION WITH THE ADOPTION OF
200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONES. THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
THINKING, AT LEAST, IS COMPLETELY COMPATIBLE WITH
USG POSITIONS ON SUCH REGIONAL SCHEMES, HOWEVER, AND
THERE HAS BEEN NO SUGGESTION OF TRYING TO INCLUDE
ADDITIONAL RIGHTS OR RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE PROPOSED
SUB-REGIONAL REGIME WHICH WOULD NOT BE A PART OF THE
GLOBALLY NEGOTIATED LOS TREATY.
FAY

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